



This publication highlights the monthly activities and events that take place on campus and across the state.

SUMMER 2015

PRINCIPAL MATTERS

By: Ms. P (Debi Phillips)



KSB RECEIVES HIGH MARKS FROM AdvancED

KSB recently hosted a visiting team of educators from AdvancED and after “checking us out” they not only gave us high marks but they cited several “Powerful Practices”! While at KSB, the team completed an in-depth review of programs, self-study data, observed classrooms and interviewed faculty, students, staff, administrators, and parents.

The team looked out our Comprehensive Strategic Improvement Plan and the system in place to see if we are doing what we said we would do, are we checking to make sure our plan is working, and, are the results pointing in the right direction for students.

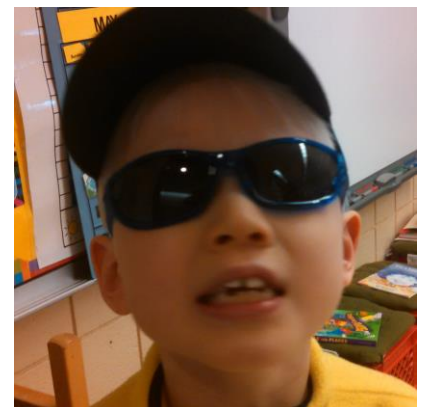
KSB has been nationally accredited for many, many years and we are proud to have been found worthy of continuing the tradition. It is important that we continue to ‘keep the main thing, the main thing’...which is student achievement- first and foremost!

LOW VISION

SUMMER TIPS

The summer brings a lot of fun with family and friends. Kids love to be outside in the sun. It is important that students wear sunglasses to help protect their eyes. The students who have albinism, cone dystrophy, glaucoma, achromatopsia, aniridia just to name a few are photophobic and need the eyewear. There are some students who may need to wear a hat along with the glasses to help with the glare.

Swimming goggles are important for the pool or ocean. There are several students who have drops inserted in their eyes daily. The goggles are a protection to help with foreign objects entering the eye. The chlorine and salt water at times can burn eyes and this can be very uncomfortable. *Be safe and have a great summer!*



OH! THE PLACES YOU'LL GO!



We want to wish ***Congratulations*** to our seniors in the Class of 2015. We wish them great success in their days ahead!



GARRETT KAWA



Garrett has been a student at KSB for six years. He has participated in the community based work program for three years and has had a variety of job experiences at the Ronald McDonald House and Beargrass Christian Church. He has also worked independently at Sacred Heart Nursing Center. Outside of school, he has jobs at McAllister's Deli, Calypso Cove Water Park Concessions, and The Forum Nursing Facility.

While at KSB, he has been active in Boy Scouts, Percussion Ensemble and KSB Fitness Club.

After high school, he plans to attend the University of Cincinnati Transition Access Program.



AMANDA LIVERS



Amanda has been a student at KSB for her entire school career (K-12). She has been an active member of the community based work program class and has held a variety of work experiences.

In the work program, she has worked at the Ronald McDonald House, Beargrass Christian, and is a much loved volunteer at Sproutlings Pediatric Day Care.

While at KSB, she has been a member of many teams; cheerleading, forensics, track, goalball, choir and music programs, and the fitness club. She was also involved in Scouts and the Braille Challenge every year. She has performed vocal and

instrumental solos at KSB concerts.

After high school, Amanda plans to continue work at Tri-Generations in Campbellsville. For the past two years, she has been spending increased amounts of her school week transitioning to this job training center while building her self- advocacy and independent skills.



TAYLOR HOLLAR



Taylor attended KSB two full years. She participated in the summer work program at the zoo and the center-based work program (peer and classroom tutor.) She also worked at the KSB Charitable Foundation office.

While at KSB, she participated in forensics and cheerleading. She also participated in the Independent Dorm Program.

She is a much loved classroom tutor – and has frequently been able to be a mentor and role model for younger students. She has been able to get younger students to participate in braille activities when no one else was able to do so.

After high school, Taylor plans to participate in the training program at the Office for the Blind (OFB) McDowell Center and hopes to continue her work with children.



TYLER SANDERS

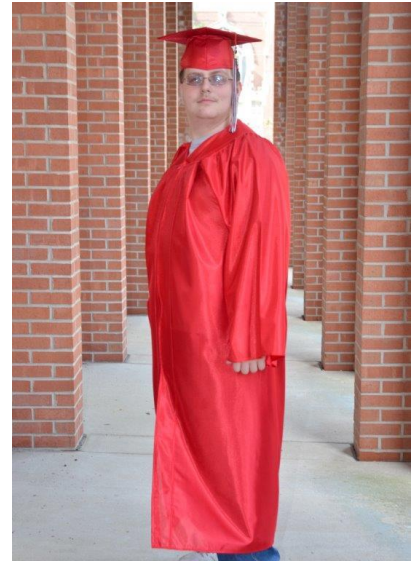


Tyler has attended KSB for one year and was a participant in the short term program. Tyler is from Bell County.

Tyler had a successful year in the independent dorm program. He participated in the World of Work Program and worked successfully at the APH vending store.

He loves farm life, gaming and music.

After high school, Tyler plans to return to the OFB McDowell Center for training and hopes to have a career in retail or vending.



CHERISH WILLIS



Cherish attended KSB for one and a half years. She has maintained a GPA of 3.2 and an ACT score of 27. While at KSB, she has been involved in the forensics. She won first place in both poetry and impromptu speaking at the North Central Association of School for the Blind (NCASB) Conference competition.

During her senior year she worked in the KSB business office and received outstanding employer evaluations at her job sight. She participated in the summer work program at the zoo and the Independent dorm program. She served as senior class treasurer and prom chairperson.

After high school, Cherish plans to attend JCTC and then the University of Louisville with a plan to major in

communications.

Cherish was the recipient of a \$250 Louisville Rotary Club Unsung Hero Award and Scholarship. She was also a \$2000 Will Evans Scholarship Award Winner from KSBCF.



ELIJAH WEGNER



Elijah has been a student at KSB for the past four years. He has shared dual enrollment with JCPS Central High School and taken honors and AP courses at Central while maintaining a GPA of 3.35. He scored a 27 on his ACT, which included a 30 in english and 33 in reading.

Elijah has been involved in many activities at KSB. He participated in goalball, forensics, wrestling, and was a member of the 2014 Insight Program at Morehead State University. He was the Senior Class President.

Outside of school, Elijah was chosen to lobby as a student voice for the National Federation for the Blind (NFB). He traveled to Washington, DC and lobbied on behalf of the Fair Wages for



Disabilities Act.

In the KSB dorm, he has acted as a tutor and has been a two year member of the Independent Dorm Program. He was instrumental in forming the after school clubs program and has been an outstanding role model and spokesperson for students with visual impairments.

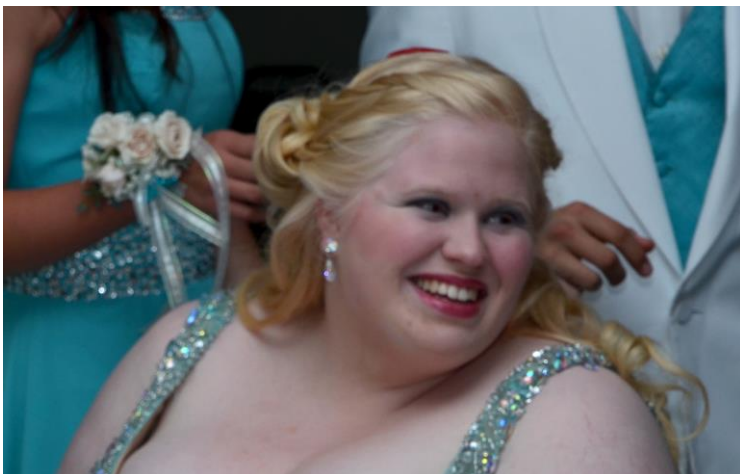
Elijah was selected as the KSB nominee for the Louisville Mayor Outstanding Senior Recognition.

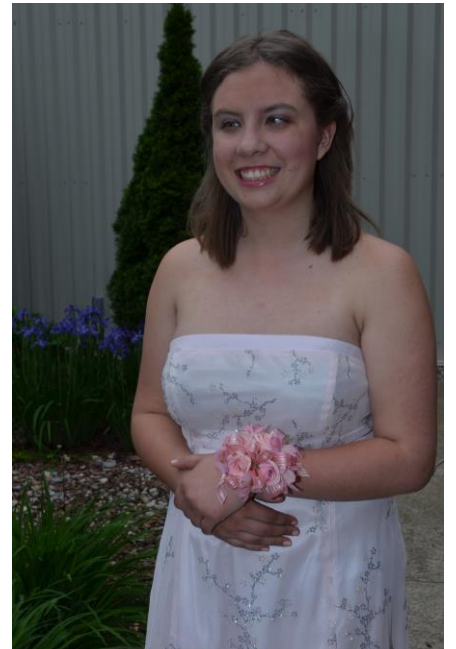
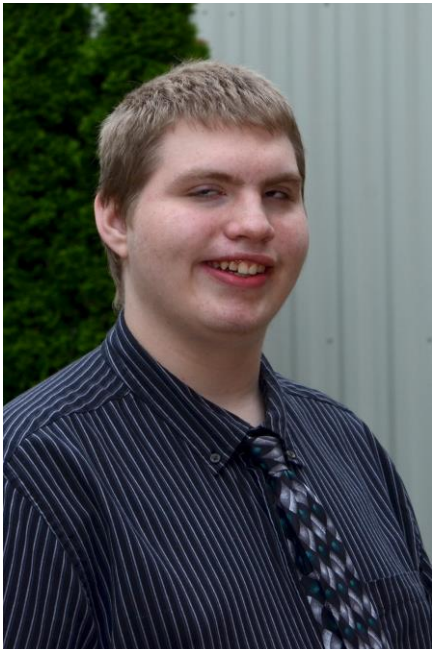
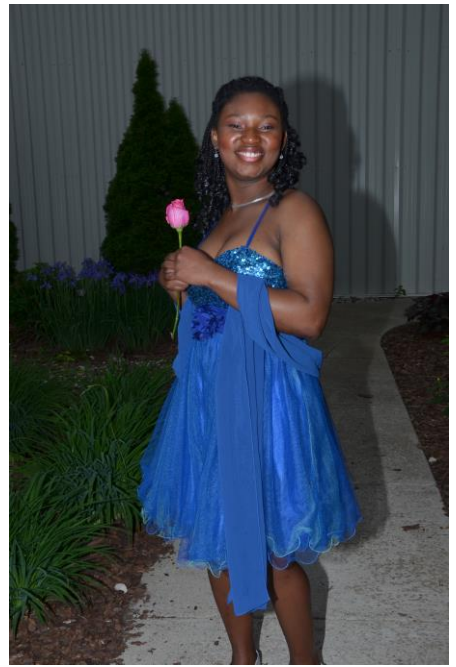
Elijah was also awarded the Dr. Robert H. Thompson Award of Excellence by the North Central Association of Schools for the Blind. This award is presented at the annual swim forensics conference to an outstanding senior who not only excels academically, but also in extracurricular activities.

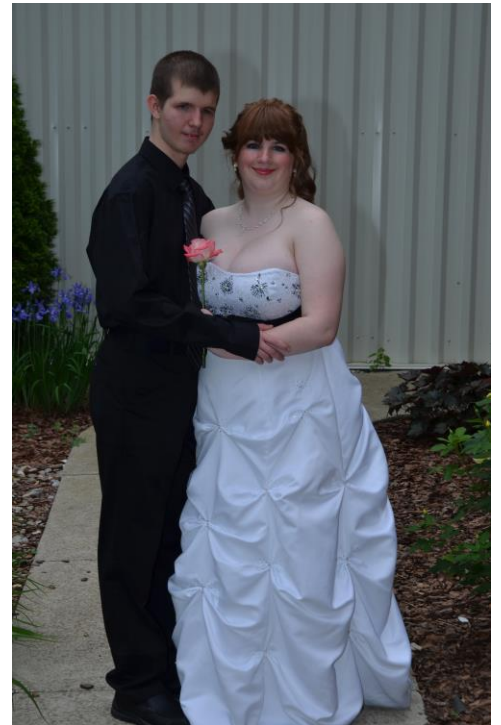
After high school, Elijah plans to attend Northern Kentucky University to study English and writing. He plans to be a teacher, as well as a published author.



Prom Night





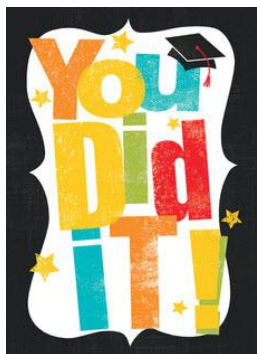


**Don't cry because it's over.
Smile because it happened.
-Dr. Seuss**

EIGHTH GRADE GRADUATION – HATS OFF TO YOU!

We congratulate our eighth graders as they advance to high school!

Alex Stine
Jaden Smalley
Taryn Seif
Danielle Hardiman
Michael Davis
Cody Barnes
Heather Anthony



EVENT HIGHLIGHTS!

BRAILLE CHALLENGE 2015



Calli Larison, second grader from Alexandria (Campbell county), will proceed to the FINALS of the

Braille Challenge in Los Angeles this month! She will compete on the apprentice level. Cindi Tackett is her Teacher of the Visually Impaired (TVI).

Calli is a shining example of why we do what we do. Thanks to all of you for what you do every day to make a difference in the lives of students. You should all be proud!



SHORT TERM WEEKEND RETREAT : A NOTEWORTHY EXPERIENCE – MARCH 27-29

The 2015 Short Term Weekend Retreat had the theme: *In Tune with Your Creativity* and hosted 28 middle-high school students from across Kentucky.

This year marked the tenth year of this event that has brought students with visual impairments to the KSB campus to focus on particular areas of the Expanded Core Curriculum (ECC), to renew and start friendships, and especially to have fun.

The program centered on the aspects of music. Activities included small groups for keyboards, guitars, and percussion. These groups worked together throughout the weekend creating their own versions based on the familiar song *Heart and Soul*. Staffing the groups were Bobby Falk, percussionist, Lee Puckett, guitars and strings, and Wade Honey, keyboards.

There was a visit to the Downtown Recording Studio in the entertainment area of Louisville as well as attending a performance of *Fiddler on the Roof* at the Jewish Community Center. The last major musical event for the students was a live recording session in the auditorium using the services of Downtown Recording Studio. CDs and mp3 files will be sent to the participants.



Recording engineer Nick Stevens of Downtown Recording Studio works with groups during the recording session.

There was, of course, time for cooking, playing music-related games, and gathering with old and new friends on campus and at a restaurant. It was an enjoyable weekend for everyone.

Kentucky Valley Educational Cooperative (KVEC) TRANSITION FAIR – MARCH 27

On March 27 the Third Annual Transition Fair was held at the Knott County Sportsplex. There were 138 students and staff who attended from nine school districts. The fair focused on Independent living and career readiness skills. There were numerous vendors and college representatives on site.

At the end of the day, the students were treated to a climbing wall. It was a great day of learning, socializing and fun for all those who participated. Thanks to all who attended and those who worked the event!



WEST KY FAMILY DAY – APRIL 16/17

“A Touching Experience for Students – Exploring Art with the Blind and Visually Impaired” was the theme of the day on April 17 in Madisonville. This educational event brought 22 students from ten school districts together to highlight the arts and have fun. They participated in art, dance, low vision skills, orientation/mobility and technology. Many students are the only one in their school to have a visual impairment. Family events are designed to bring those students together for socialization. With many donations and volunteers, the day was a success!



Low Vision



Dance



O&M



Tactile Art

"SIDE BY SIDE" EXHIBITION – APRIL 22 – MAY 4

Creative Diversity Studio & Gallery hosted "Side by Side: An exhibition of Artistic Collaborations from The Louisville Side by Side Program", April 20 - May 4. The exhibition included collaborative artwork by student artists from KSB and local artists.

The Side by Side exhibition is made up of 15 groups of three pieces of art – one made by the student, one made by the artist, and one collaborative piece. Each design represented a lively interaction between youthful spirit, and the experience of professional working artists. Side by Side is an annual program offered by VSA Kentucky in partnership with KSB, and Creative Diversity Studio & Gallery.



GRREC FAMILY DAY – APRIL 25

On April 25, the Green River Region Educational Cooperative with Wendy Strode-Ross, Regional Consultant, hosted a Family Day event. It was hosted by APH, the KSB Charitable Foundation, Office of the Blind, Modern Woodmen, and KSB.

Big Red, mascot for Western Kentucky University paid a visit to all the participants. Dave Wickstrom and Corey Wade from Independence Place demonstrated beep baseball and goal ball to the students! There were also craft activities and other gross motor activities. Thank you to all the hosts, volunteers, teachers, and most importantly the families who joined us for our *Get Your Game On In 2015!*



DON FIGHTMASTER GOLF OUTING– APRIL 27



KSB students participated in the Don Fightmaster golf outing, sponsored by the PGA, on April 27. It's a Derby tradition going back more than three decades; dozens of children with mental and physical disabilities experienced the thrill of the game of golf during the outing.

For 35 years, Fightmaster, known as the Arnold Palmer of amputee golf, has been spreading the sport he loves to children with special needs, but he said those kids may not be the ones who get the most out of the event.

In addition to fun, the event raises a lot of money, about \$700,000 for children's charities.

GREEN RIVER REGION EDUCATIONAL COOPERATIVE (GRREC) JOB FAIR – APRIL 30



KSB Outreach Consultant, Wendy Strode-Ross, participated in a job fair at Plano Elementary! She had a great day of recruiting some future teachers of the visually impaired (TVI) prospects!

WEST KY TRANSITION FAIR – APRIL 30

On April 30, over 150 students and parents visited with vendors from colleges, businesses, and services. KSB was represented at the fair by Outreach Consultant, Robbin Cox. Pictured with Ms. Cox is Mary Jo Campbell, Physical Therapist for the W KY educational Cooperative.



KSB MIDDLE SCHOOL ZOO FIELD TRIP – MAY 7

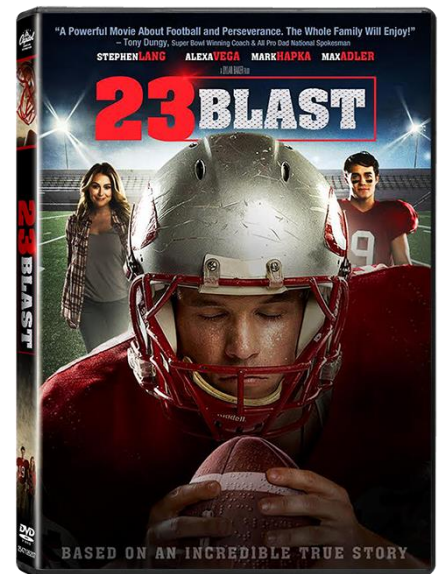


Middle school students participated in a combined Operation Preparation field trip along with a science field trip to the Louisville Zoo. They were able to learn about the summer work program sponsored by KSB/KSBCF and OFB. They learned about many careers at the zoo including customer service, accounting, food service, etc. It was enlightening for them to learn about many career options that are within every organization. They were also able to participate in a scavenger hunt related to their science lessons.

Many times our middle school students are often grouped with high school or elementary for events. This outing was a wonderful way to teach, as well as to celebrate our middle school kids!

KSB “DRIVE IN” MOVIE NIGHT – MAY 26

The Family Resource Center and PSSO sponsored a cook-out and outdoor movie for day and residential students. The elementary students enjoyed BIG HERO 6 in their cardboard “cars”. The upper school students enjoyed 23 BLAST – the story of Travis Freeman, blind football player from Corbin.





Field Day







Have a GREAT Summer!

FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL (2015-16) IS AUGUST 17

The **SCHOOL CALENDAR** can be found at:

<http://www.ksb.kyschools.us/Content2/80>

Editor: Beth Baker, Administrative Assistant, Outreach

Kentucky School for the Blind
1867 Frankfort Avenue
Louisville, KY 40206

We're on Facebook! We would love for you to like our page!
Follow this link: <https://www.facebook.com/KYschoolfortheblind>





KSB Mission Statement:

“The mission of the Kentucky School for the Blind is to provide comprehensive educational services to all Kentucky students who are blind and visually impaired, birth to 21.”

KSB Vision Statement:

“Empowering Students who are Blind and Visually Impaired to Command their Future”

KSB Beliefs

We believe students who are blind and visually impaired...

- ... can become college and career ready through world class instruction and services
- ... have unique needs that must be met
- ... have a right to knowledge, tools and relationships necessary to build successful lives
- ... deserve to be taught in a safe and caring environment by competent professionals
- ... are meaningful contributors to society